

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/555,557

Examiner

Dennis G. Bonshock

Applicant(s)

GIKAS ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 8-26-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5, 7, and 9-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Darleen J. Stockley, on November 15, 2005.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. Please replace line 5, of claim 13, with
-- structure, the software interface comprising computer-readable instructions, executed on a computer readable medium for performing: --

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The examiner considered the Applicant's Amendment filed on 8-26-2005, and after updated search, no other prior art of record has taught that which is presented in the amended claims (including the examiner amended claim 13).
3. Therefore, independent claims 5, 12, 13, and 14, are found to be allowable along with the dependent claims 7 and 9-11.
4. Independent claims 5, 12, 13, and 14 when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record. Kekic discloses in Figure 68 a display window that is divided both vertically and horizontally. Kekic further discloses in Figure 68 a first partial

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window displaying a hierarchical structure of at least one interface parameter of a software application. The at least one interface parameter can be selected using a movable cursor, and a detailed display is subsequently displayed in a second partial window. The interface parameter has a bi-unique designation and the software is applicable to an industrial automation system. Kekic discloses in Figure 68 that the detail display includes at least one editable attribute of the selected interface parameter wherein the editable attribute can be defined and parameterized. The editable attribute, furthermore, comprises a name portion ("Attribute Name") and a data portion ("Event Name", "Polling", "Value", "Description"). The name portion and the data portion are arranged in horizontal rows one below another. A scrollbar indicates that the data portion can be scrolled horizontally. Kekic, is supplemented by Bergman, who teaches partial scrolling, in column 11: lines 58-67 and column 12: lines 1-2 a user interface comprising a name portion ("Class ID" and "Name" columns) and a data portion ("Teacher", "Room", "Grade", and "Monday" columns) contained within the same partial display window. Both the name portion and the data portion are displayed within the same partial display window, but only the data portion is scrolled to the left when scroll bar (84) is used to reveal other columns not visible at the right of the display. This feature is important because it advantageously keeps the name portion visible at all times, which allows the user to easily associate the name portion with a corresponding data portion no matter how great the number of columns. However, specifically the prior art of record fails to clearly teach or support the limitation of "combining function blocks in a common branch to form combined functions having respective branches, where

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each end of the respective branches forms an interface appertaining to a block represented by a respective branch, enabling selection of arbitrary interfaces”.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

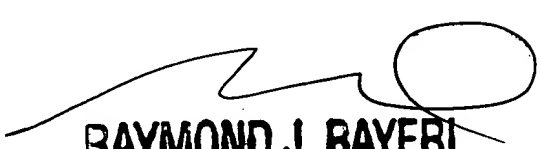
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

11-11-05

dgb



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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